

# Spark Gap

Volume 22, Issue 1, January 2005



*The Official  
Newsletter of the  
Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 835  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)

## From the President... What's up for MARC in 2005?

Ernest Clark, KB9SKI, President, Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Folks:

A new year. Time to re-learn how to write checks. Time to make resolutions and plans, and see how far we can

push them. What's up for MARC in 2005?

First I'll mention the regular things. There will be a

Technician class this spring, details to be determined in the coming weeks.

Talk it up to anyone you know who might be interested in a Tech ticket, and think about whether there's something you do that you'd like to talk to prospective Technician students about for five minutes or so. There will be

severe weather this spring and summer, so take or re-take the National Weather Service (NWS) weather spotter training and be prepared for service during tornado weather. There will be Field Day. Thanks go to JR for volunteering to handle the MARC presence at this year's multi-county Field Day extravaganza in Marion County; please give him your assistance. I'm also hoping to have a separate MARC Field Day for those not wanting to travel out-of-county; getting to meet and work with hams from several counties is a Good Thing, but if we can practice and extend our independent skills at emergency field operations, that's a second Good Thing. There will almost certainly be the Greenwood Band Invitational this September. There will also be the regular club elections. Have complaints? Think you could do a better job? Think about serving as an officer! One

of the efforts I'm pushing among the officers is for each officer to write a "How to do it" manual for his or her office, to be passed along to ease a successor's start-up pains. I know Brenda appreciates the Treasurer HOWTO I left her. There will be club dues, and hopefully a monthly newsletter as part of your member benefits. Those are the regular items. What extras do I want to see

happen? First, our federal Not-For-Profit status will hopefully arrive Real Soon Now, and we can start reaping some of its benefits: cheaper newsletter postage, easier appeals for donations, possibly even some grant money. I want to see our repeater improve: remote links, more power, and anything else we can swing. I want

more club activities: let's try to have a prominent MARC presence at the mini-marathon this May, and at other events served by nearby radio clubs who might appreciate a few more helpers. I want to see a firmer relationship with local authorities so we can be of better service in an emergency. Quite a lot of extras here, and it would be wonderful if we can accomplish them all.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy new year. Each New Year's Eve, as the midnight tick approaches, my standard toast is "may next year be better." Sometimes the tone is "be even better!" sometimes a pleading "be better, please" but always, may the next year be better. For all of us, for MARC and amateur radio, may 2005 be better. 73, KB9SKI

---

***"Happy  
New Year"***

---

# Amateur Radio Praised as Lifeline in South Asia

*...from the ARRL Newsline, January 2005*

As the tsunami relief and recovery effort continues in South Asia, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan



Mike Sercer, WA9FDO, at the December 18th meeting presenting info on BPL. (photo courtesy of W8ISH, Jack)

## Officers

**President:**  
Ernest Clark,  
KB9SKI

**Vice President:**  
Dave Daily,  
KB9LOT

**Secretary:**  
Linda  
Harshbarger,  
KC9GCH

**Treasurer:**  
Brenda Haler,  
KC9EBL

**Repeater Trustee:**  
Matt Payne,  
KB9JUE

**Spark Gap Editor:**  
Bob LaGrange,  
N9SIU

Singh has joined those paying tribute to Amateur Radio's ongoing emergency communication role. Director and Executive Vice Chairman S. Suri, VU2MY, of India's National Institute of Amateur Radio (NIAR), noted January 5 that the PM "was all praise for hams in India and the entire

world who helped us in this hour of need." Suri said the administrator of hard-hit Car Nicobar Island has asked NIAR to keep on duty Rama Mohan, VU2MYH, and five other radio amateurs who have been providing communication with the island since shortly after the December 26 disaster.

"The district administration chief of Car Nicobar Island spoke to me this morning to say even now it is only the ham communication that is aiding them for relief and rehabilitation measures," Suri said in an e-mail to Jay Wilson, W0AIR, of the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response Association (DERA) and shared with ARRL. Mohan, who had received DERA training in the US, was part of NIAR's VU4NRO/VU4RBI DXpedition to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. When the earthquake and tsunami struck the region, DXpedition team leader Bharathi Prasad, VU2RBI, promptly shifted the operation to handle emergency traffic and health-and-welfare inquiries between the island and the Indian mainland. More than 20 Indian radio amateurs are said to be involved in providing emergency communication support in the Andaman and

Nicobar Islands. Ironically, until the recent NIAR DXpedition the Indian government did not allow Amateur Radio operation from the islands. It's since cleared the way for all Indian hams to operate from VU4.

In the disaster's immediate aftermath, Suri said, Mohan and other DXpedition team members risked their lives to alert the chief of administration on Andaman Island, since tsunami waves later overran the road they'd traveled. NIAR staff member Jose Jacob, VU2JOS, was providing emergency communication remote Huthbay Island. *...From the ARRL Newsline, January 7, 2005* ■

## Closer to Home

December ended with a mixed bag that included a day of heavy snow for most areas of Central

Indiana with many counties declaring snow emergencies. This was followed by rain and balmy temperatures. January came in with more rain to the South and an ice storm to the North. Many Central Indiana residents have been forced from their homes by either high water and flooding or because of a lack of

power.

As the disaster coordinator for Clarian Health (Methodist, IU, Riley Hospitals), the first full week of January brought a phone outage for the IU and Riley campus, rumors of a city terrorist attack when explosions occurred in downtown Indianapolis, followed by a boil water alert by the Indianapolis Water Company.

All of these events brought home the need to be prepared for anything Mother Nature throws at us. As a new amateur, I will be looking for guidance from the club as to what emergency equipment to have on hand in order to stay in touch with the outside world. 73, KC9GCH, Linda ■

## Club Dues for 2005

Club dues are now due for 2005. Please see the club treasurer, Brenda Haler, KC9EBL, at the December meeting and pay your club dues at that time. Full member dues are \$18.00 per year for membership in MARC.

Full members are those who have a valid amateur radio license. Full members may vote and hold office. Associate members are those who are licensed and/or unlicensed without the privilege of voting and/or holding license. Associate member dues are \$10.00 per year.

MARC also has a category for family members. Family members are persons related to and living in the same household as a full member. Family members may not vote or hold office.

Another category of membership is available. Honorary Lifetime Members may be nominated at any regular meeting. Such nominations must be made by a full member of MARC. This status is intended to be an exceptional honor, in recognition of especially meritorious and distinguished contributions of the nominee of the club. A majority vote of members present and voting is required to confer this status.

An Honorary Lifetime Member shall pay no dues and shall retain all the privileges of full membership. A Dues Exempt Membership is also available. Please see our Treasurer for details. ■

## Amateur Radio Testing

Interested in getting your amateur radio license? The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings.

This is the perfect opportunity for you or someone you know to get that amateur license, or upgrade to a higher-class license. Our Volunteer Examiner team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any test necessary. Study hard, and then come to the meeting. Our VE Team is eager to serve. ■



**KB9SKI, Ernest, and KB9JUE, Matt, at the December MARC meeting. (photo courtesy of W8ISH, Jack)**

### VEC News

#### November 2004

Bill Murray, KA9VPP, Upgrade to General  
William Cronkhite, KC9AFN, Upgrade to Extra

#### December 2004

Floyd Engle, K9MMY, Upgrade to General

***Congratulations!***



### Silent Keys

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of this amateur:

**KG4CLF, Charles Osborne**

## Are you a member of ARRL?

If so, and if your dues for ARRL are also due, our club treasurer can help you renew your membership. MARC will receive money from ARRL for any MARC member renewing their ARRL membership. If you are not a member of ARRL you can also start your membership through the club and MARC will receive money from ARRL for you joining.

**WA9RDF  
Repeater  
146.835/146.235  
MHz  
151.4 Hz PL**

# 2005 Schedule of Events

## January

- 13 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
MCL Cafeteria; Sumner Avenue and Southeast Street in the Target Mall, Indpls
- 15 MARC Meeting**  
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 20 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
Denny's; I-65 South and Main Street in Greenwood
- 27 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
The Golden Corral; US 135 South in Meijers Parking Lot in Greenwood

## February

- 3 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
The Country Charm Grill; 39 Public Square on State Road 9 in Shelbyville
- 10 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
Jonathan Byrd's Cafeteria; I-65 South and Main Street in Greenwood
- 17 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
The Home Town Buffet; US 31 (East Street) North of I-465 in Southern Plaza, Indianapolis
- 19 MARC Meeting**  
Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN
- 24 Thursday Night Supper Club**  
Chili's; US 31 South in the Greenwood Park Mall Parking Lot
- 26 Cabin Fever Hamfest - LaPort Amateur Radio Club**  
LaPorte, Indiana; <http://www.k9jsi.org>

### Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

### Thursday Night Supper Club

The MARC Thursday Group is an informal group of amateur radio enthusiasts who meet almost every Thursday Night at various restaurants around the Johnson County and Southern Marion County areas. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet fellow amateur radio operators in an informal setting. The location of the restaurant varies weekly, so they may be near you soon! The group meets each week at 6:00 PM. See you there!



Mid-State Amateur  
Radio Club  
P. O. Box 835  
Franklin, IN 46131  
[www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org)  
317.887.2558

*Spark Gap*